Amendments to the Seeds Act

1717. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need of amendments in Seeds Act, 2000;

(b) whether Government propose to streamline the production of seeds as also its export, import and sales;and

(c) whether Government propose to ensure setting up of Seeds Boards at State-level also and linking them up with the National Seeds Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The draft Seeds Bill encompasses, *inter alia*, arrangements for the streamlined production, sale, import and export of seeds and the establishment of the National Seeds Board and State Seed Committees.

Recommendations of Committee to make SAU's farmer friendly

1718. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee, appointed to make the State Agriculture Universities (SAUs) more farmer-friendly and market-oriented, has given its report;

(b) if so, what are its recommendations;

(c) whether the ban on opening of new SAUs, creations of new facilities and levy of one per cent cess by State Governments on agriculture produce etc. as recommended by the committee would not adversely affect the activities of SAUs; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures are being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. No Committee has been constituted by the ICAR to make the State Agriculture Universities (SAU) more farmer friendly and market-oriented.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Not applicable.

Study on Impact of Weather Conditions on Agriculture

1719. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Rs. 10 crore project, to study the impact of change in weather patterns on agriculture across the country, has been undertaken recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has prepared a project with an outlay of Rs. 10 crore to be implemented during the Tenth Five Year Plan to study the effect of climate change on agriculture.

(b) The objectives of the project are:

(i) to conduct basic, applied and strategic research for quantifying the vulnerability of Indian agriculture to increasing climate variability and climate change, to develop adaptation strategies for minimizing their negative impacts and to identify mitigation strategies;

(ii) to provide policy support to the Government and other stakeholders on issues related to climate change and agriculture.

The project is at present being examined within ICAR.

Laws to Control Duplicate seed manufacturing companies

1720. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI M.V.RAJASEKHARAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the existing laws to nail the fraud and duplicate seed manufacuring companies who are playing with the lives of our farmers;